

with alternative fuels will help us conserve energy, develop new resources, and reduce our dependence on foreign oil. In our industries, advanced lighting, such as the systems promoted by the EPA Green Lights Program, makes our businesses more efficient, more environmentally sound, and more competitive in world markets. In the coming century, the challenge will be very great to protect our precious environment and produce sustainable economic growth. Our Nation's energy use is a critical and significant part of this challenge. We must work to find more efficient ways to use current resources, and search for new ones.

To encourage each American to join in this effort to improve our Nation's energy future, I urge participation in activities that further our understanding and appreciation of how we can meet energy challenges and contribute to energy solutions in our changing world.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim October 1993 as Energy Awareness Month.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-second day of September, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-three, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and eighteenth.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 4:05 p.m., September 23, 1993]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on September 27.

Statement on the Cost-Share Adjustment for Midwest Flood Recovery

September 22, 1993

I have been in the Midwest four times since early summer when the floods first began to exact their steep toll on the lives and livelihoods of thousands of hardworking Americans. I've seen firsthand the magnitude

of the damage, the submerged towns, and the drowned fields, shops, and farms—some temporarily out of business, some permanently destroyed.

I promised that when the Midwest asked the Federal Government for help, the Federal Government would answer swiftly and strongly. And I'm very proud of the speed and efficiency with which our Government, led by FEMA, has met this challenge.

But the job is far from done. The extraordinary duration and force of the floods caused an unprecedented degree of damage to the economies in the Midwest, damage that will take dozens of months and billions of dollars to repair. And as I pledged, the Federal Government will not leave the people of the Midwest to handle this alone.

That's why earlier I announced that in States where the cost of flood damage was at least \$64 a person, the Federal Government would adjust the requirement that States assume 25 percent of the cost of FEMA-provided relief. Instead, the National Government would pay fully 90 percent of those costs.

However, as the damage toll continues to mount, it's becoming increasingly clear to me that we must not view flood relief as local assistance only. The scope of this disaster is so great that it has the potential to have a dampening effect on our entire national economy, and we must respond accordingly.

Therefore, today I have established a second standard that will be used to address those disasters with wider economic impact. In multiple State disasters with significant impact on the national economy, the alternative threshold has been established at .1 percent of the gross domestic product. That means I have approved the reimbursement of eligible public FEMA assistance disaster costs for the nine Midwest States affected by this summer's catastrophic flooding at a 90 percent Federal/10 percent non-Federal cost-share basis.

As the families of the Midwest struggle to restore order to their lives and rebuild their communities, I want them to know that this administration plans to be with them every step of the way. And I'm determined that our commitment remains as clear in our actions as it is in our words and our prayers.

Remarks at a Health Care Rally

September 23, 1993

The President. Thank you very much, Tipper and Vice President Gore and to the First Lady and all of you. This has been an incredible 10 days on the lawn of the White House, in the Nation's Capital and in the life of your President, for me as a citizen as well as the President.

After the Middle East peace signing, we had just a couple of days ago the signing of the national service bill here, with hundreds of young people, a bill I believe literally has the capacity to change not only the lives of hundreds of thousands of young people but the fabric of life and the strength of community all across America. I signed the bill with two pens, one, the pen that President Roosevelt used to sign his bills with, and the other the pen that President Kennedy signed the Peace Corps bill with 32 years ago. And I thought to myself, this is why I went to the snows of New Hampshire. This is why I wanted to be President, because together we can make this democracy work.

And then last night, speaking to the Congress and sensing the incredible historic opportunity we have to reach across party and regional lines, to unite people who are worried about universal coverage and people who are worried about cost control and people who are worried about the disabled and people who are worried about men and women with AIDS and people who are worried about mental health and people who are worried about elderly, to get everybody together to try to find a solution that will permit us at once to provide comprehensive lifetime health care benefits to all the people in our country and at the same time to stop the waste, the bureaucracy, and the unconscionable increase in cost that is putting a terrible burden on our economy and our Government's budget, to have the opportunity literally of a generation to see the American people come together around a common goal and achieve it. That's truly awesome.

But what I want to remind you of today is this: First, we should be grateful that the moment has come when vast margins of our fellow citizens understand in their gut, even

if they don't know all the details of this complex system, that the cost of staying with what we have is far greater than the cost and the risk of change. Secondly, that for the first time in the 20th century, we sort of have everybody in the same place at the same time. Believe it or not in the first two decades of this century, there was one instance in which the American Medical Association wanted a national health program, and the AFL-CIO opposed it. It didn't take long until that turned around. Then there were times when Democrats wanted to do it but Republicans didn't. And then there was President Nixon who offered an employer mandate to get universal coverage, and the political consensus for it wasn't there.

It's almost like for this whole century someone would decide that this was a terrible problem, that someone ought to do something about it, but all the other players were like ships passing in the night. Now you have big business and small business and health care providers and health care consumers, families who have been broken and workers who are trapped in their jobs all agreed that the time has come to act.

I think my job today is to tell you that as much as I wish this to be a celebration, to thank you for everything you've done, it's to remind you that our work is beginning, that the real celebration will be when you come back in even larger numbers to this lawn when I sign a bill to solve these problems.

In the next few days the Congress will begin in earnest to take this issue up. It is, as all of you know as well or better than I, a matter of mind-boggling complexity on the one hand and simply truths on the other. Even all of us in this audience do not agree on every detail about how to reach the goal that we all share.

So, just for one minute I would like to reiterate what I said last night; let us at least commit ourselves to the principles which must shape the final legislation. First, and most important, is security. We have simply got to provide for every American for a lifetime, health care that is comprehensive, that is always there and cannot be taken away.

Second, we must make this system more simple, more simple because it will have